three Cinema Halls, one of which caters chiefly for Europeans and educated Indians. 361

(2) MUGHAL GARDENS.

Chashma Shahi.—About five miles from the Srinagar Civil Lines on the hill-side above Lake Dal is situated the well-known spring, ***Chashma Shahi*** or the "Royal Spring." It is famous for its pure, transparent and cold water. The spring is enclosed by a small garden in which the fountains play, fed from the same spring. The garden was laid out by Shah Jahan in 1632. It commands a beautiful view of Lake Dal and its environments. 367

Nishat.—Two and a half miles beyond ***Chashma Shahi*** and right on the edge of Lake Dal lies the famous ***Nishat Bagh*** or the "Pleasure Garden" which was laid out in the time of Shah Jahan. It is arranged in twelve terraces and its cascades and fountains, flowerbeds and lawns, cypress and ***chinar*** trees, heighten the beauty of the prospect presented by the panorama of the lake against the background of imposing and magnificent mountains.

Shalamar.—This garden lies about two miles beyond ***Nishat Bagh*** on the way to Harwan. It was built by Jahangir for his beloved Nur Jahan, with whom he passed several summers here. The garden has many majestic ***chinar*** trees and is ornamented with terraces and fountains. On one of the terraces is built a magnificent pavilion of black polished stone closely resembling marble.

Nasim.—This is a fine green plain on the bank of Lake Dal shaded by a wonderful grove of ***chinars***. It is an ideal camping ground situated at a distance of 6 miles from Srinagar. Four tennis courts have been constructed, in the garden recently. Bathing may be enjoyed in ideal surroundings in ***Nagin Bagh*** which is close by. Sailing boats, bathing boats and motor boats for aqua-planning are available on hire for visitors.

Achhabal.—This garden is situated at a distance of 40 miles from Srinagar, from where it can be reached by car in less than two hours. The water which is cold and refreshing gushes out of the foot of the hill, which skirts the garden on the southern side. The garden with

347 its beautiful cascades and fountains was laid out by Jahangir. There is a Trout Hatchery at Achhabal, which is fed by the water of the spring. Outside the garden, there is a small beautiful ground shaded with *chinar* trees. There is also a rest-house, with catering arrangements, situated quite close to the ground.

Vernag.—Another Mughal garden is at Vernag below the beautiful spring there. The place is fifty miles from Srinagar and 6,100 feet above the sea level. It is situated at the foot of the Pir Panjal and has a large spring in an octagonal basin and an arcade built by Jahangir. The [138] limpid water flowing from the spring is one of the principal sources of the river Jhelum.

(3) Hill Stations.

361 **Pahalgam.**—This hill station is situated at a distance
485 of 59 miles from Srinagar at an altitude of about 7,000
133 feet above the sea level, in the heart of the finest side
[490] valley of Kashmir, the Liddar Valley. The road to Pahalgam from Srinagar is suitable for motor and lorry traffic during the spring, summer and autumn months. It attracts an increasing number of visitors every summer. It has hotels, post and telegraph offices, a Tehsil office, a dispensary, a police station and a conservancy staff. It is an important stage in the pilgrimage to the sacred cave of Sri Amarnath, which is 27 miles away. The great Kolahoi glacier, another attraction for visitors, is about 22 miles from Pahalgam.

Kokarnag.—Kokarnag which is at a distance of 50 miles from Srinagar and 10 miles from Achhabal has a group of springs from which ice-cold water flows. The camping ground is close to the springs. A cafe has recently been opened there.

Gulmarg.—This far-famed holiday resort is about twenty-eight miles from Srinagar, and 8,700 feet above the sea level. It provides many amenities for visitors. It has a high class hotel, post and telegraph offices, a dispensary, a police station and a Tehsil office. The hill station is placed under a Town Area Committee. A magnificent panorama is unfolded to the view from the circular road, 7 miles long, which commands a view of the Nanga Parbat ranges and the whole of Kashmir Valley. Khilanmarg, which is a favourite place for excursions

(4) Lakes.

133 **Dal.**—This beautiful lake is over 3¾ miles by over 2¼ miles in size. The background is provided by mountain ranges which rise 3,000 to 4,000 feet above the level of the lake. The water is fresh and abundantly supplied [367] with fish, wild duck and water-fowl. One of the main features of this lake is the famous floating gardens. The lake is a favourite place for the mooring of house-boats. One of the corners of the lake is Gagribal, noted for its very clear water. It is an ideal place for bathing. Registered bathing boats, sailing boats and motor boats for aqua-planning are available on hire at the Gagribal point.

Anchar.—This is 5 miles long and 2 miles wide, and extends towards Ganderbal. It is a good place for duck and snipe-shooting in winter months. Lotuses and lilies are to be seen here in profusion in the month of August.

Wular.—This is the largest fresh water lake in India, and is 12½ miles long and 5 miles wide. The lake can be reached from Srinagar by river as well as motor road.

Manasbal.—This lake, about 16 miles from Srinagar, is accessible both by road and river, and is considered to be the loveliest of the Kashmir lakes. About 2 miles in diameter, it is surrounded by majestic hills, and its water is blue and clear. The ruins of a fine Mughal garden are situated on one of its banks.

Kausarnag.—This is the largest mountain lake in Kashmir. It is situated on the Pir Panjal range, about 13,000 feet above the sea level and is over 2 miles long. It is surrounded by some of the most picturesque of the Himalayan peaks. Three of these peaks, each about 15,500 feet high, tower over this lake which usually remains frozen till the month of June.

Shishnag.—This is a mountain tarn situated at an altitude of 12,000 feet on the pilgrim road to the Sri Amarnath cave.

(5) Ancient Monuments.

172 **Pari Mahal (Palace of fairies).**—A massive building, now in ruins, standing on the side of the mountain to the south of Lake Dal: it is said to have been erected in the time of the Mughal emperors for astronomical